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Book Notices.

Epistles of James and Jude.

The General Epistles of St. James and St. Jude. [The Expositor's Bible.]
By the Rev. Alfred Plummer, M. A., D. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong
and Son. Pp. 476. Price \$1.50.

The volume of the "Expositor's Bible" on the Pastoral Epistles written by Dr. Plummer has already been noticed in the *STUDENT*. This volume is equal if not superior to it. Much attention is paid to questions which are suggested by the Scripture material or directly related to it. The exposition is made on the basis of the Greek text and here some exception may be taken to the writer's good judgment in introducing so much of purely linguistic discussion in what purports to be a piece of popular exposition. Of the character of the scholarship there can be no question. Some new interpretations are given. Both sides of disputed points are quite fully given. The ordinary and accepted views of the authenticity and canonicity of the Epistles are maintained. James is the real "brother of the Lord," Jude is his brother. The date of the Epistle of James is not definitely decided though the author is a good deal inclined to the earliest date, A. D., 45-49. He favors the dependance of St. Peter on James, though his verdict on the whole discussion is "not proven." A very liberal spirit characterizes all his material. He denies verbal inspiration, thinks that there is little doubt that the apostles expected the immediate Second Coming of Christ, holds that Jude probably believed that his illustrations from the Apocryphal books were matters of fact, while, in reality, they could not have been. "We have no right to prejudge the question of fitness, and say that inspiration would certainly preserve its instruments from wittingly or unwittingly making use of a fictitious Apocalypse." The spirit of the book is reverent and uplifting. The narrowness of view concerning the institutions of the church, its ritual and officers, which marred the former exposition of Dr. Plummer in this series, does not have any opportunity to appear here. This book is among the three or four best volumes of the "Expositor's Bible," worthy to stand with Dods' "First Corinthians," Smith's "Isaiah," Maclaren's "Colossians." It has a good index and table of contents.

A Life of Christ.

A Life of Jesus the Christ. By Henry Ward Beecher. Completed Edition.
New York: Bromfield and Co. 2 vols. Pp. XII., 448; X., 370.

A peculiar interest attaches to this book, inasmuch as it was perhaps the last thing that engaged Mr. Beecher's activities before his death. A first volume, it will be remembered, appeared about twenty years ago, while the author was in the prime of life, and occupied with most exacting duties. It was the pressure of these duties that caused Mr. Beecher to put off again and again the completion of the second volume, until it was too late. Fortunately,